

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Cancelled)
23. (Cancelled)
24. (Cancelled)
25. (Cancelled)
26. (Cancelled)
27. (Cancelled)
28. (Cancelled)
29. (Cancelled)

- 30. (Cancelled)
- 31. (Cancelled)
- 32. (Cancelled)
- 33. (Cancelled)
- 34. (Cancelled)
- 35. (Cancelled)
- 36. (Cancelled)
- 37. (Cancelled)
- 38. (Cancelled)
- 39. (Cancelled)
- 40. (Cancelled)
- 41. (Cancelled)
- 42. (Cancelled)
- 43. (Cancelled)
- 44. (Cancelled)
- 45. (Cancelled)
- 46. (Cancelled)
- 47. (Cancelled)
- 48. (Cancelled)
- 49. (Cancelled)
- 50. (Cancelled)
- 51. (Cancelled)
- 52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) A method for growing, expanding, and/or maintaining isolated mammalian cells *in vitro* said the method comprising: ~~comprising the step of placing in contact said cells with~~

(a) conditioning a culture medium with conditioned by MMH cells (c-Met Transgenic Murine Hepatocyte (MMH) cells;

(b) removing or separating the MMH cells therefrom to provide an MMH cell-free conditioned cultured medium; ~~free from conditioning cells;~~

(c) contacting a mammalian cell with the conditioned culture medium obtained from step (b); and for maintenance and proliferation of mammalian cells.

(d) culturing the mammalian cell in the conditioned culture medium for a period of time sufficient to grow, expand, and/or maintain the mammalian cells in the contacted culture medium.

wherein the cultured mammalian cells are selected from the group consisting of bone marrow cells, cord-blood stem cells, non-human embryonal stem cells, adult stem cells, endodermal cells, ectodermal cells, mesodermal cells, natural killer (NK) cells, dendritic cells, and endothelial cells.

- 54. (cancelled)
- 55. (Cancelled)
- 56. (Cancelled)
- 57. (Cancelled)
- 58. (Cancelled)
- 59. (Cancelled)
- 60. (Cancelled)